

PDE - English Language Arts LEARNING COMMUNITY



WHO WE ARE

Welcome to the [PDE - English Language Arts Learning Community](#). The Learning Community provides an avenue to connect with educators of all levels across the Commonwealth.

The Learning Community also provides a collaborative environment to extend and enhance the discussion of important issues with PDE staff and colleagues regarding teaching, learning, and assessing.

Please join us by discussing and sharing important issues, challenges, and ideas that promote the effective and successful teaching, learning, and assessing of ELA throughout the Commonwealth.

FEATURED PODCAST

Reinvigorating passion and joy at the heart of teaching

Jason McKenna explores five strategies that can assist teachers in focusing on the joy and passion in teaching: creating a not to do list, embracing periods of unproductivity, redefining success metrics, prioritizing dialogue over data, and protecting personal time diligently.

[Podcast: Reinvigorating Passion and Joy at the Heart of Teaching - Steve Barkley](#)

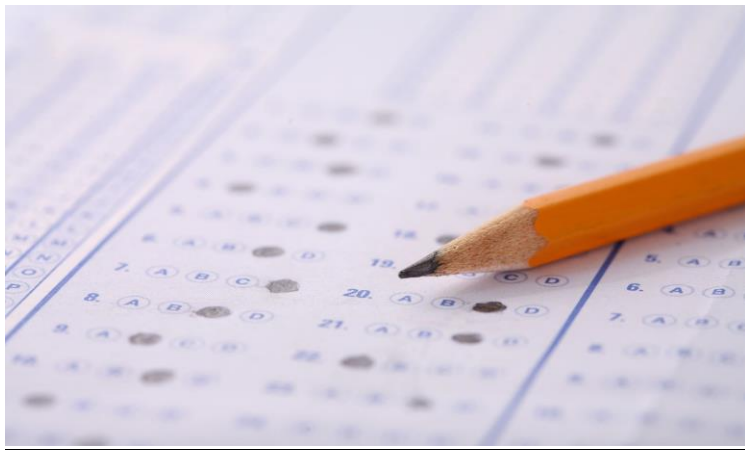
DID YOU KNOW ...

March is [Women's History Month](#), coinciding with [International Women's Day](#) on March 8. It's a time to recognize the achievements of remarkable women from around the globe throughout history.

This roundup of Women's History Month activities and ideas celebrates artists, scientists, leaders, and more women who made their mark. They'll open the door for deeper discussions on the challenges women have faced (and continue to face) and the impressive accomplishments they've made against the odds.

[Women in History Month](#)

Assessment Information



NCEO has released an updated resource,

[Communicating about Annual State Assessment Participation for All Students: A Communication Toolkit.](#)

This communications toolkit was developed by NCEO to identify and describe reasons why all students, including students with disabilities, English learners, and English learners with disabilities should take state tests.

The purpose of the toolkit is to provide a concise resource that state education agency staff, and district and school administrators can use when communicating with educators, policymakers, families, and students about why it is so important that students participate in state assessments.

It also contains materials that Individualized Educational Program (IEP) teams can use when making state test participation decisions for students with disabilities. This toolkit is intended to provide a neutral but useful mechanism to guide positive, thoughtful conversations about student testing participation. The toolkit includes:

- Sample social media posts
- Sample letter to families
- One-page “ready-to-go” flyers
- One-page “ready-to-go” discussion guide for IEP teams
- Customizable slide deck
- Customizable flyers

Questions and comments can be sent to Andrew Hinkle at ahinkle@umn.edu

Character Development

The Medal of Honor Character Development Program is a free resource that teaches students courage, commitment, integrity, sacrifice, citizenship, and patriotism through extraordinary military and civilian stories, including those of Medal of Honor Recipients themselves.

All lessons and teaching resources are flexible enough to be implemented in public, private, charter, homeschool, and extra-curricular settings, and are useful as Social Emotional Learning tools to create a positive and healthy school culture.

Join the Medal of Honor Training Team for an in-person training session to learn how to use the program with your students.

[Medal of Honor Training](#)



6 Key Takeaways from Science of Reading: The Symposium

Amplify - 2023 Science of Reading: Symposium was one of Amplify's biggest events to date!

What's the right knowledge-building program for you? How can you implement it in your district? And why does this shift deliver life-changing results?

Amplify talked to global literacy experts in the recent Science of Reading: The Symposium and compiled their wisdom into key takeaways that you can apply to your instruction today. By downloading their ebook, you'll glean expert guidance on:

- *Shifting to high-quality literacy instruction.*
- *Bolstering children's background knowledge to enhance reading comprehension.*
- *Techniques to make content stick in knowledge-building classrooms.*
- *The role of literacy instruction in supporting English language learners.*
- *Rethinking equity in education.*

Download Amplify's ebook and navigate to the Science of Reading today!

[6 Key Takeaways from Science of Reading: The Symposium](#)



Jumpstart Your College Essay



Free College Application Essay Help

Everyone has a story to tell—a unique experience that defines who they are, sculpts their worldview, and makes them stand out from other college applicants.

[Write the World's](#) Jumpstart Your College Essay On-Demand Webinar welcomes students in grades 9-11 to find and own their story through a [Harvard-incubated curriculum](#).

From learning critical strategies for navigating the “[College Essay](#)” genre, to decoding the essentials of the [Common Application Essay](#), this webinar provides college essay help online free that will position you to amaze admissions officers with authenticity, insight, and skill.

[college essay help - free online webinar](#)

Classroom Library Grants

*The Book **Love** Foundation seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting a hunger for books. These teachers recognize the diversity of every class of readers and they challenge each student to build an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy. Teachers who apply for a Book **Love** Foundation grant must demonstrate that they are already committed to the support of readers through current classroom practices such as maintaining access to a range of books, conferring regularly and purposefully to understand and support students' changing needs, and sharing their own contagious passion for reading inside and outside of their classroom.*

This year, we will be awarding three types of grants - Classroom Library grants, Book Clubs grants in honor of Dr. Teri Lesesne, and the new Preservice Teachers grants.

For requirements and applications, please select the link -

[Book Love Foundation Application](#)



Professional Learning Workshop



Considerations for Structured Literacy Instruction with English Learners

March 18, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

March 19, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

English learners often find themselves assigned to scripted literacy interventions to address their below-grade-level reading abilities. Yet, this designation does not often consider the intersections between multilingual learning and literacy development, and, worse yet, most literacy interventions assigned to ELs are actually designed for use with monolingual students. In this session, we will explore ways to move from commonplace scripted literacy interventions to practices that situate literacy in a multilingual pedagogical framework.

Target Audience: K-12 ELA teachers, Reading Specialists, PreK-12 ESL Specialists, school and district administrators

Act 48 Continuing Education Credits: 4 hours

Presenter: Andrea G. Kolb, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Education Officer at WITF, Inc.

[REGISTER](#)

NOTE: The content advisor has reviewed sites identified here; however, educators are advised to preview for appropriateness for their respective classrooms. The mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations does not imply endorsement of PDE.
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